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LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, during the period from 1 to 15 March 1996, United States, British and French aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace, carrying out surveillance operations and engaging in provocation. The details are as follows:

1. In the northern region 115 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 747 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabayish, Ushbayjah, Qal'at Salih, Basra, Salman, Amarah, Shanafiyah and Lasaf.

3. On 21 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq in the southern region, then left in the direction of Kuwait.

4. At 1323 hours on 19 March 1996 a hostile formation broke the sound barrier 25 kilometres south of Qal'at Salih.

You are requested to intervene with the countries in question with a view to bringing a halt to such actions, which, being flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and have caused serious material damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Republic of Iraq and its people.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative